



LEFT PANEL

The History of the Church and Parish

Following the Irish potato blight large numbers of Irish immigrants arrived in York, creating the need for a new church in the Walmgate area. They crossed the Pennines seeking work here as cattle drovers on local farms or as navvies on railway construction.

St George's Church, designed by Charles and Joseph Hansom – the latter famous for the Hansom cab – ministered to the needs of the newcomers as did the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) and the Quaker Tuke family of The Retreat who provided tents on Walmgate Stray (the Low Moor).

The parish has been served by a remarkable number of religious houses including the Poor Clares (Colettines), the Sisters of Mercy, the Daughters of Charity, the Carmelites of Thicket Priory, the Corpus Christi Carmelites, the Carmelites of More House Heslington, the Alexian Brothers and the de la Salle Brothers who taught for many years in the Senior Boys School.